



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

15 AUGUST 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Francisco – British Cyber Researcher Pleads Not Guilty To Hacking Charges

(U) Marcus Hutchins pleaded not guilty yesterday to federal charges related to malicious code he built and sold used to steal banking credentials. US prosecutors claim that Hutchins—arrested earlier this month in Las Vegas on unrelated hacking charges—and an unnamed co-defendant advertised, distributed, and profited from malware code known as "Kronos" between 2014 and 2015. If downloaded from email attachments, Kronos left victims' systems vulnerable to theft of banking and credit card credentials.

SOURCE: 14 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Oklahoma – Man Arrested in Plan to Bomb Bank

(U) Oklahoma City – A 23-year-old man was formally charged yesterday with attempting to detonate what he believed was an explosives-laden van outside an Oklahoma bank in a plot like the deadly 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building. Jerry Drake Varnell of Sayre, Oklahoma, was arrested last week in connection with a plot to detonate a vehicle bomb in an alley adjacent to BancFirst in downtown Oklahoma City. Varnell was scheduled to appear in federal court yesterday on a charge of attempting to use explosives to destroy a building in interstate commerce. If convicted, Varnell faces between five and 20 years in prison.

SOURCE: 14 August 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Virginia – Vehicle Attack Suspect Denied Bail

(U) Charlottesville – The man who allegedly drove into a group of people who were protesting a rally, killing a woman and injuring several others, was denied bail yesterday. James Alex Fields Jr. is charged with second-degree murder, three counts of malicious wounding, and one count related to leaving the scene. The rally was attended by white nationalists groups and were met with hundreds of counter-protesters, which led to street fights and violent clashes. Fields is accused of driving into the counter-protesters.

SOURCE: 14 August 2017, [ABC News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Indonesia – Police Uncover Alleged Plot to Bomb Presidential Palace

(U) Jakarta – Indonesian police arrested five suspected extremists and seized chemicals near the capital that they said were being used to make bombs for attacks on the presidential palace at the end of August. Two of the five, a husband and wife, had been deported from Hong Kong for allegedly spreading radical ideology, and the group had studied bomb-making techniques through a website run by an Indonesian believed to be fighting with the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS).

SOURCE: 15 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Mexico – Four Killed in Popular Resort Area

(U) Acapulco – At least four people have been shot and killed in the Pacific resort of Acapulco, which has become a hotspot in Mexico's rising drug violence. The deaths came as Mexico's violence reached new heights with 2,234 murders in June, the country's deadliest month in at least 20 years, according to government data. For the first six months of 2017, authorities nationwide recorded 12,155 homicide investigations, or 31 percent more than the 9,300 during the same period last year. The once-glamorous resort of Acapulco has struggled with surging violence.

SOURCE: 14 August 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Former Local Police Chief Facing Drug Smuggling Charges

(U) McAllen – A former Rio Grande Valley police chief made his first appearance in court yesterday morning on charges of aiding and abetting, possession with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine, and attempt to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance. Former La Joya Police Chief Geovani Hernandez was arrested after a month's long investigation during which he met with a confidential informant and admitted to being close friends with the Gulf Cartel plaza boss in Reynosa. He faces 10 years to life in jail if convicted for his charges.

SOURCE: 14 August 2017, [KRGV Rio Grande Valley](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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